

HALLOWEEN

By A. R. Parkhurst Jr.

The Halloween Pre

"The old goldwife's weel horded nits,
Are round and round divided;
An' monie lads' an' lassies' fates
Are then that night decided."

"Some kindly couthe side by side,
An' burn the gither trimly;
Some start awa wi' saucy pride,
An' jump out ower the chimney
Fu high that night."

Of the Irish or Scotch extraction is to feel the keen delight in all Celtic customs and adds certain zest to the spells and incantations of that truly Celtic tradition which sets aside the 31st of October as the night of doom, when ill or sunny fortune lurks in kale root or candle light. Unquestionably All Hallow Even, or Halloween, is a relic of pagan times, dating back to the days when the Druids were accustomed to kindle sacred fires on the eve of November 1st that they might ward off evil spirits as, in the popular imagination of those and later times, this has always been considered the high carnival season for witches, fairies and the immaterial principle in humanity to wander abroad. Supernatural influences prevail and divination by means of mystic ceremonies is at its highest power then.

In some parts of England and Ireland they still call it "Nutcrack Night" and many pastimes are indulged in by gossams and colleens whereby their fates are decided. In games played that night nuts are brought into play and by these little tokens many a match is decided then and there. For instance—desiring to ascertain if one's sweetheart is faithful, let each one place a nut upon the grate, naming it for a lover. If the nut jumps or cracks the maiden or swain is proved false, but if it blazes and burns merrily he or she loves. If nuts named for a boy and a girl burn together they will be married.

This bit of verse may be recited when this game is in progress:

These glowing nuts are emblems true,
Of what in human life we view.
The ill-matched couple fret and fume,
And thus in strife themselves consume;
Or from each other mildly start,
And with a noise forever part.
But see the happy, happy pair,

The Magic Wish Candles

Of genuine love and truth sincere,
With natural fondness while they burn,
Still to each other kindly turn.
And as the vital sparks decay
Together gently sink away.
Till life's fierce ordeal being past
Their mingled ashes rest at last.

A custom still prevalent in Scotland is "pulling kale stalks." Copies journey to the fields hand in hand, blindfolded; each person must pull the stalk that first comes to hand. The future partner is bound to be stout or slender, short or tall, according to the size of the stalk selected. The quantity of earth or turf clinging to the roots of the stalk decides the size of the dowry or fortune, while the taste of the pith determines the temper of the mate selected. Finally, the stalks are placed in a row over the door, and it is believed that the Christian names of all those who enter during the evening will be identical with those of the future life partners.

"Three dishes," or "Lugies," is another Scottish observance still in favor in the Highlands. Two of these are filled, respectively, with clean and dirty water; the third is left empty. They are arranged in a row and placed upon the hearth. Each palpitating lover, blindfolded, advances in turn and tremblingly

dips his hand into a bowl. If it is in the clean water he will surely wed the maiden of his choice; if in the foul, a widow will fall to his lot; but if, sad fate, he strikes the empty bowl, single blessedness will be his fate for evermore.

There are hundreds of old customs, equally primitive, still indulged in in England, Scotland and Ireland, and many of the Halloween games that have found their way to this side of the water are modifications of these. Halloween is generally observed in the United States, but it is the New Englander, perhaps—that grim and unimaginative Puritan—who lays more store by the omens of the night when witches stalk abroad, gnomes gambol and Jack-o'-lanterns flit hither and thither o'er hill and dale and through graveyards than any other type of American.

In later years the preparations for Halloween have been far more elaborate than in the days of our grandfathers. Nowadays the parlor and dining-room are liberally and tastefully decorated, and, as on other autumn festivals, the flowers and vegetables of this season play an important part in the color and decorative scheme. Of course, the pumpkin is the vegetable which has more possibilities

along these lines than any other, and it is everywhere to be seen. Soup plates and platters are fashioned from them, and then, too, grotesque and weird masks can be cut from this vegetable where a skilled carver wields the knife.

Autumn leaves in the first blush of their frost-tinted glory are always brought into use and no decoration where Dame Nature yields the brush is so delicate in tint or tone than boughs of gum or oak. There is no need for an expensive outlay on flowers at this time. Cabbages draped with crepe paper make pretty fruit or flower baskets, and nothing is more beautiful at this time of the year than goldenrod. Salad dishes fashioned out of cabbages are pretty, effective and useful and add a spice of autumn to the festive board which gives it just the proper tang. Of course, everybody knows that the pumpkin can be so carved as to make an ideal Jack-o'-lantern, with eyes covered with a bit of red silk through which the rays from the lighted candle within can gleam. Ropes of cranberries, popcorn and scarlet and green peppers add tremendously to the general effect, and then, too, sheaves of wheat, ears of unshucked corn, golden carrots, crimson beets and many hued apples and pears can be utilized in many ways.

Another favorite center is the Plaza del Oriente, between the Royal Palace and the Royal Theater. The middle classes love to congregate and wait for the royal carriage to drive by to the theater. It is in the form of an oval and its outer promenade is ornamented with fourteen enormous statues of kings and queens. In the center of these pretty gardens trees and decorated with charming pastoral scenes. The furniture is elaborate. It is both splendidly carved and gilded. Some of it is made in the country, but a large part is imported from France. The doors are softened by beautiful rug woven in the Moorish towns and in Persia.

But the feature that attracts one most are the streets, in which the people promenade and make merry. They are compact, for one can drive from one end to the other in half an hour. Most of the streets are broad, excepting in the old parts, where there is still a dash of local color in the narrow, winding lanes and the hanging balconies.

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A Pumpkin Jack O'Lantern



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Of course, the Halloween feast must be partaken of just before or just after midnight, as there are so many games that can only be indulged in at the very stroke of 12. If tradition is adhered to, and these must not be shattered if the true spirit of Halloween is to prevail. Every girl with one whiff of romance in her makeup loves to be in her boudoir at 12. There, with mirror in hand, she peers over her shoulder to see if her lover can see her face reflected in her glass as she in turn can see him. Then, too, the apple-bobbing contest and the candle-leaping game must all be gone through with as near to the witching hour of 12 as possible.

In bobbing for apples each apple is named. Then, when set afloat in a tub, those who are to learn their fate gather around. With their teeth they try to catch the stem of the apple, and if they succeed in bringing it from the tub they are to marry the person for whom that particular apple is named. The candle game is played with a number of little wax tapers lighted and set in a row. The candles are named and each contestant endeavors to hop over each one, and on one foot. If they should snuff the light on any candle without turning it over that person for whom the candle is named will wed him or her within the year.

A game of our earliest childhood is that of paring the apple. Due care should be taken not to break the peeling and when pared off first it should be tossed over the left shoulder while the omen-seeker chants:

"I pare this pippen round and round again,
My lover's name to flourish on the plain,
I fling unbroken parings o'er my head,
Upon the floor my lover's name to read."

This paring, then, in obedience to this

incantation, forms the initial of the lover. Apple seeds named by some obliging friend to designate the various matrimonial possibilities are stuck on the cheeks. The one remaining there the longest is the successful and constant lover. The counting of apple seeds which have been "named" is another favorite diversion. "One I love; two I love; three I love I say," chants the person who thus seeks her fate. "Four I love with all my heart and five I cast away. Six he loves; seven she loves; nine he comes; ten he tarries; eleven he courts and twelve he marries," the chant continues. No apple is supposed to have less than 12 seeds.

Another charming diversion is to go into the garden and walk about, sowing hemp seed, the while chanting: "Hemp seed, I sow thee; hemp seed, I sow thee; hemp seed, I sow thee and him that is to be my true love come after me and show thee." Then, by looking over her left shoulder, she will see her future husband.

If a dumb cake is desired for a charm the girls must meet in the kitchen between 10 and 11 o'clock. Each girl must take a handful of wheat flour upon a sheet of white paper and sprinkle it over with as much salt as she can hold between finger and thumb. Then one of the party must make them into dough, being careful not to use spring water. Then each girl must roll her dough out into a thin, flat cake and mark her initials upon it with a new pin. The cakes having been placed before the fire, each must take a seat before her respective cake. Thirteen must all be done before 11 o'clock, and between that hour and midnight the cake can be turned once. When the clock strikes 12 the husband of her who is to be married first will enter the kitchen and approaching the row of cakes he will place his hand upon that part of

the cake upon which her name is scratched. Throughout the whole ceremony not a word must be spoken, hence the name "dumb cake."

It requires a person of courage to visit a graveyard at midnight. But if anyone cares to tread among the graves "at the witching hour of night, when churchyards yawn," they may—note the word—see all the ghosts scampering from stone to stone, each trying to find his individual grave in order to be at home on the succeeding All Saints' Day.

But when good-night is said below stairs the night's fun is not ended by any means, for many of the rites of my lady's chamber are quite as attractive as those in which the exterior sex were permitted to take part earlier in the evening. Each girl upon arriving in her boudoir should pluck two roses with long stems, naming one for herself and the other for her lover. She must then retire to her sleeping room without speaking to anyone and kneeling beside her bed repeat the following lines, gazing, meanwhile, intently at her lover's rose:

Twine, twine and intertwine!
Let my love be wholly thine.
If his heart be deep and true,
Deeper grow his rose's hue."

If her swain be faithful the color of the rose will at once grow darker and its blush more intense.

The last rite of all for the Maid of Halloween, and to many this has proved the most satisfactory and convincing test of all, is that with the glass of water. The identity of the maid's lover cannot long remain in doubt with this test carefully and well executed. A glass of water containing a small silver of wood is placed on a little stand at the bedside. In the night she will dream of falling from a bridge into a river; but scarcely will she touch the water when her future husband, whose face she can plainly see will leap after her and rescue her. This done can any of us fail to believe in the Little God of Love?

All hail then to Halloween!

MADRID, the Capital of SPAIN

By DELIA AUSTRIAN

Triumphal Arch

MADRID is not the largest of the European capitals, but it is extremely cosmopolitan and well kept. Like all capitals, it is most attractive in the winter and spring, when the place is alive with diplomats and foreigners.

After leaving the station we wander into a large street which brings us to an enormous square called the Puerta del Sol. This square is certainly as old as the city, for it is said to have been the site of a great many high buildings. In the center is an enormous fountain, which really suggests a miniature lake. From here radiate ten fine streets, like so many spokes in a wheel. There is life and gaiety here all day, from early morning until close on midnight. In the early morning a continued stream of men and women pass through the square on their way to work. Toward midday many equipages pass by, occupied by well-dressed Spanish women and by diplomats on the way to the palace. In the afternoon the large square is filled with carriages containing, beautifully gowned women and highly uniformed men starting off for the afternoon airing. On pleasant afternoons it is a central place where men and women to hold informal receptions, while away a happy hour in laughter and conversation.

After 6 o'clock the square is heavily crowded with representatives of all social classes, from the most exclusive nobility to the poorest working people, out for a walk and supper at one and another of the many-priced cafes. Judging from the hundreds of people who swarm the Puerta del Sol and the adjoining streets after 5 o'clock, one imagines that the city is largely filled with idlers. This is not exactly true, as in Spain all classes, from government officials to the working people, give themselves up to pleasure after 5 o'clock.

This square is well named, for it means the Gate of the Sun, and, though there is no gate, the place is bathed with sunshine. But not all the people gather there; many more go into the Alcala, a park bright with flower beds and green

canopies made by the lapping branches. Here are plenty of men and women chatting on benches and listening to the military band. Another of the popular squares is the Salon del Prado, noteworthy for the splendid obelisk of the Dos de Mayo, placed there to commemorate the Miraflores massacre of 1808.

One of the most popular rendezvous of the Spanish people is the Plaza Mayor, the grand square of Madrid. It is 2,450 feet above the sea. It is here one of the royal household takes place, and near by is a beautiful bronze statue of Philip III. In recent years the square has been converted into a large garden. Under the arcades are many shops, principally filled with attractive Spanish toys.

Many of the public buildings are in one and another of these large squares, and

they are built in keeping with their surroundings. The older buildings have been remodeled until they seem really modern. Attractive in spite of their age are the isolated buildings of the house offices built by Charles III. In 1768.

Another spacious marble building, handsomely carved, is in the square called the Plaza de la Villa. This large building was once a royal residence, but it is now the home and public office of the Duques de Infantado.

But there are plenty of more modern structures. Close to the obelisk is the Exchange, built of marble and stone; the facade is ornamented by many Ionic pilasters. On the opposite side is a larger marble building called the Spaniards, one of the finest public buildings in Europe.

The houses in the old parts are often

worn and dingy looking; some are many centuries old. But in the newer parts, such as Barriada Salamanca, the houses and apartments have much the same style and individuality that characterize our private buildings. They are far more gorgeous inside than they are without. The ceilings are beautifully painted and decorated with charming pastoral scenes. The furniture is elaborate. It is both splendidly carved and gilded. Some of it is made in the country, but a large part is imported from France. The floors are softened by beautiful rug woven in the Moorish towns and in Persia.

But the feature that attracts one most are the streets, in which the people promenade and make merry. They are compact, for one can drive from one end to the other in half an hour. Most of the streets are broad, excepting in the old parts, where there is still a dash of local color in the narrow, winding lanes and the hanging balconies.

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The Royal Palace

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Though the Prado is lively every pleasant afternoon, it is so crowded on festive days one can hardly pass. The street is a mass of people, carriages and horses. The peasants from the towns around mix with the nobility listening to the bands and dining in one and another of the cafes.

Another favorite center is the Plaza del Oriente, between the Royal Palace and the Royal Theater. The middle classes love to congregate and wait for the royal carriage to drive by to the theater. It is in the form of an oval and its outer promenade is ornamented with fourteen enormous statues of kings and queens. In the center of these pretty gardens trees and decorated with charming pastoral scenes. The furniture is elaborate. It is both splendidly carved and gilded. Some of it is made in the country, but a large part is imported from France. The floors are softened by beautiful rug woven in the Moorish towns and in Persia.

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In addition to the attractive boulevards and gardens ornamented with statues and fountains are the government buildings and the palaces.

A splendid building is the House of Commons. It is in the north side of the Plaza de la Cortes. In the center of the facade is a pediment representing Spain receiving the Law, through Power and Justice. Another building that is noteworthy is the Casa de Moneda, the mint of Spain. The building is spacious and modern and it is fully equipped with plenty of foreign and up-to-date machinery.

More elaborate even than the House of Commons is La Casa de los Ministros, which was built and fitted up for the secretaries of state. The grand staircase and vestibule are of rare and costly marble. The ceiling of the library is decorated with three exquisitely fine medallions.

But the Royal Palace is the main point of interest. It is the building to which strangers turn with curious gaze. It is about 420 feet long and 100 feet high, but the wings and the hanging gardens are still unfinished. The base is of granite, but the trimmings are marble. The splendid entrance leads into a large court with a glazed upper gallery. It is said that when Napoleon ascended the long sweep of marble steps for the first time he exclaimed to his brother, Joseph: "Well, you are certainly housed better than I."

Though there are plenty of suites to the eyes, none is so beautiful as the chief salon. It is called de Embajadores, or throneroom, and the decorations are magnificent. The most precious ornament, as well as the most beautiful are the rock crystal chandeliers, heavy and very large. The curtains and draperies are of crimson velvet, which gives a warmth to

the marble and luster to the room, especially in the evening, when the great chandeliers are lighted.

A legitimate part of the palace is the magnificent library that boasts 100,000 books, rare manuscripts and beautiful illuminations. The Spanish are equally proud of their large collection of implements of war, housed in the armory. Though a great deal of the collection is many centuries old, the building is new and modern. The nucleus was started in the time of Charles V. But there are weapons from the time of the Spanish Armada, the Inquisition, as well as those used at the time of the landing of Columbus. The walls are covered with helmets, bows, swords and gigantic lances. From the ceiling hang the banners of all the armies of the world, from inner Mexico to the farthest oriental countries.

But it is the National Picture Gallery of which Madrid is most proud. Though the collection is comparatively small, there are a number of pictures that have a priceless value. The first room is especially noteworthy for the paintings of Luca Giordano. In the second room is a large collection of Goya, the last of the great Spanish painters. In the third, which is a large square, are the masterpieces of the great masters. Here are seen the loveliest of the Virgin of Murillo, and on another wall the portraits of the saints of Ilberia. In the center of the room are the pictures of Raphael, Michelangelo, Titian and other great Italian painters. But of the Spanish masters, Murillo and Goya are especially popular. Murillo's street waltz, happy in their poverty, are always loved; while Goya is at his best with peasant scenes, representing smugglers, massacres, thieves, wars, etc.

Madrid, indeed, has much to be proud of.

FRENCH SCIENTISTS STUDY FISHING.

THE average person tucks his fishing pole over his shoulder and goes off to forget serious matters, but the French government is now busily studying fishing from a scientific standpoint. The fish which is now being pored over by scientists is the toothsome sardine. Off the Brittany Coast for centuries the French fisherfolk have caught sardines by the millions.

But lately the sardine has shown himself a wanderer, and 10 years ago the fishing industry to Brittany found that the old feeding grounds were almost deserted. Thousands of families left the district, scores of mills or fish factories

were closed up and many firms failed in business. Last season the fish returned to the Brittany fields in millions. They were so plentiful that the few factories that had stuck to the place could handle only a small proportion of the catch.

The price obtained by the fishermen went down until they got less than the cost of the belt used in catching the sardines. As a result the French government has sent half a dozen specially trained men of science to study the situation and to try and discover if there is any way of attracting the delicious sardines annually to the Brittany fields. The best informed opinion seems to be that

the fish left the Brittany banks because the feeding grounds were badly depleted, and that they have returned after 10 years of absence because in the meantime the food supply there has once again become sufficient.

The French government hopes to learn about this, and will attempt to use scientific methods in keeping up the food supply in the waters so the fish will always return there. Another suggestion is that certain ocean currents affect the movements of the vast shoals of sardines, but the food theory is the one held by the majority of scientists who have studied the matter.

They are built in keeping with their surroundings. The older buildings have been remodeled until they seem really modern. Attractive in spite of their age are the isolated buildings of the house offices built by Charles III. In 1768.

Another spacious marble building, handsomely carved, is in the square called the Plaza de la Villa. This large building was once a royal residence, but it is now the home and public office of the Duques de Infantado.

But there are plenty of more modern structures. Close to the obelisk is the Exchange, built of marble and stone; the facade is ornamented by many Ionic pilasters. On the opposite side is a larger marble building called the Spaniards, one of the finest public buildings in Europe.

CAN CHANGE IRON INTO STEEL.

GERMAN named Kallman is changing Europe with scientific results obtained in a new process for changing low-grade iron into first-class steel. It has already been done in Germany and in London and the great English firm of Vickers & Maxon is said to have offered a vast sum for the British rights to the new process.

The real secret of the process lies in a certain peculiar chemical power whose ingredients are so far unknown to the public.